The Story of a 1964 Super Hawk 64V9251

Memories of 64V9251, George Krem,



My dad was an engineer at Stewart-Warner in Chicago from 1958 through 1983. I was still living at home in January, 1964. Dad returned from work one cold January 1964 day (he had a 45-minute commute between S-W and the Chicago suburb of Roselle, where we lived at the time) with the news that the Studebaker dealer he passed every day during his commute--Ray Motors--had a new, red 1964 Gran Turismo Hawk on the showroom floor. We knew that South Bend Studebaker production had stopped several weeks earlier, and Avanti-powered Studebaker's could no longer be ordered. At the time, dad's everyday transportation was a tan 1961 Hawk.

Dad asked if I would accompany him to look at the 1964 Hawk that very evening...when Dad became enthusiastic about something, he was not one to let grass grow under his feet!

At the dealership, we found that the '64 Hawk was a rare bird indeed: it was equipped with the complete R2 High Performance Package. Dad fell in love with the car and immediately traded his 1961 Hawk on the '64.

During the next five or six years, the R2 Hawk served all of my parents' transportation needs. Dad let me use the Hawk occasionally when I had an evening or weekend obligation at the college where I was teaching 10 miles away. I drove it on dates and it served as the official getaway car when I married Ludene in 1966.